

**Town of Cummington
Board of Health
Annual Report for FY2015**

A Board of Health is responsible for attending to conditions and environments that could threaten health of local residents, mainly through implementing State regulations. Board of Health activities for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) include:

Transfer Station Renovation

In the previous fiscal year, bids for an extensive redesign of the transfer station far exceeded the estimated cost of \$205,000. In addition, the existing compactor for rubbish was past its end-of-life, and with the redesign-plans, would have been scrapped and replaced, but was not in the redesign budget. The Board of Health, instead of requesting additional funds to cover the redesign and a new rubbish compactor, proceeded with a budget of \$85,000 to refurbish the existing facility and equipment, be used in conjunction with an additional \$20,000 that was already earmarked for a recycling bin and recycling compactor. Renovations began in FY2014 and were complete in April 2015.

These renovations included repair of the rubbish compactor to improve its function to last a few more years, repair of the existing wooden sheds, installing new a fence and entry gates, poured concrete and other material and labor for sitework, purchase of the recycling bin and recycling compactor, building a roof for it, and painting new and existing sheds and structures. Renovation costs totaled \$72,500, staying within the projected cost of \$85,000, and this included \$350 to cover an overage in the cost of the new recycling compactor. Continued improvements are being implemented through Board of Health general funds which they've newly designated for ongoing repair-and-maintenance.

Transfer Station permits and bag tags

The current bag tag system began in 2011 (FY2012), and the cost of the annual permit remains unchanged. With everyone paying for bag tags to discard their rubbish, residents pay according to use. The new compactor for recyclables was added in FY2014, and the new recycling facility accepts a wider variety of items. As a result, (no-fee) recycling continued to increase throughout FY2015.

The Board of Health members thank you, the Cummington townspeople, for your recycling efforts. Please also remember that all recycling is monitored by the receiving facility and the town is cited if collections are contaminated with non-recyclable materials. Therefore, be very careful and avoid putting any household trash into the recycling bin. Your cooperation is essential to help our Transfer Station build and keep a good reputation.

Disposal containers for Sharps

Improper disposal of hypodermic needles and other "sharps" presents a hazard to anyone handling trash containing these items. The Board of Health offers quart-size disposal boxes that can be purchased for a nominal cost at the Transfer Station.

Town Septic Pumping Program

In fiscal year 2014 The Board initiated a septic system pumping program that made it easier for residents to have their septic system pumped, with a small discount. Many residents participated in the autumn of 2014, and also in the summer of 2015. The Board plans to continue the program in the summer of 2016.

West Cummington Landfill

Repairs to the former landfill site were completed, inspected, and approved in FY2014. This year's first annual post-closure inspection detected three minor problems that were fixed and approved. Ongoing monitoring and inspections will continue.

Septic Inspections

Every year the Board of Health monitors septic installations, perc tests, septic design approvals, and does sign-offs before finished systems are covered. The Board of Health also reviews all Title 5 inspections (as is necessary when property changes hands).

Well Water Testing

Owners of wells should have their well's water-quality tested annually for any of a variety of specific possible contaminants.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bogart, Chair	2017
Roger Gunn	2016
John Earls	2018